THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Head Quarters, South Western Air Command (HQ SWAC) has been relocated from Jodhpur to Gandhinagar for effective command and control over its units. Gandhinagar is more centrally located in the area of operations of HQ SWAC as compared to Jodhpur, which is located toward the northern limits of jurisdiction of HQ SWAC.

(c) and (d) Jodhpur is located approximately 100 km from the nearest point on the international border and has adequate security arrangements.

Collection of Dues from Former PMs, Central Ministers and CM's for Use of defence Air Crafts

2460. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any step to collect the pending dues from former Prime Ministers, Central Ministers and state Chief Ministers, etc. for using the defence Aircrafts; and

(b) if so, the details thereof including the total dues to be collected?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government has filed suits in February 2001 in the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi for effecting recovery of Rs. 22,18,56,837/- on account of airlift dues with interest from the three former Prime Minsiters. The suits will come up for hearing on 9th January 2002.

Further action for realisation of the dues will be taken as per directions of the Court. The details of dues are contained in the statement enclosed.

Statement

Outstanding Dues from formers PMs, Central Minsiters and CM's For use of defence Air Crafts.

Name	Dues outstanding (in Rs.)		Total
	Principal	Interest	
Shri Chandrasekhar	5,91,31,476'-	6,56,35,938 /-	12,47,67,414/ .
Shri PV Narasimha Rao	5,72,13,700/-	3,21,20,398 /	8,93,34,098/-
Shri HD Deve Gowda	54,61,497/-		77,55,325/-

Approval for All Defence related purchases which affect our Defenc e prepardeness

†2461. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision to accord permission for all those proposed defence deals because of which defence preparedness is being affected;

(b) if so, the names of the countries with whom Government have decided to sign defence deals agreements togetherwith the details of such agreements; and

(c) what are the actual reasons for giving clearance to these deals by Government?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERN ANDES): (a) to (c) Various defence related purchases affecting our defence preparedness are approved by the Government keeping in view perceptions and availability of resources. It niew of the sensitive nature of the information, it is not in the interest of national security to disclose further details.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.